



**THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY
ANNOUNCES THE ANNUAL COMPETITION FOR THE
NEAR EAST, SOUTH ASIA, AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM
(NESA UGRAD).**

THE U.S. EMBASSY IN NOUAKCHOTT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FY2013 COMPETITION FOR THE NEAR EAST, SOUTH ASIA, AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM (NESA UGRAD).

THIS IS A NON-DEGREE PROGRAM AND IT WILL BE THE STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK WITH THEIR HOME INSTITUTION REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF CREDITS ACCUMULATED DURING THE PROGRAM.

THE NESA UGRAD PROGRAM IS A PART OF ECA'S GLOBAL UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM DESIGNED TO MEET AN ON-GOING COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE A LARGE AND DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENT LEADERS WITH IN-DEPTH EXPOSURE TO U.S. SOCIETY, CULTURE AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS BY ENGAGING IN SUBSTANTIVE ACADEMIC EXCHANGES AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

PARTICIPANTS FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA WILL BE PLACED FOR A FULL ACADEMIC YEAR (APPROXIMATELY 10 MONTHS) OR ONE SEMESTER (APPROXIMATELY 4 TO 5 MONTHS). THOSE PARTICIPANTS PLACED FOR ONE SEMESTER WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND SEMESTER OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENROLLED FULL-TIME IN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE WORK CHOSEN FROM A HOST INSTITUTION'S EXISTING CURRICULUM TO ALLOW STUDENTS AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE INTERACTION WITH U.S. FACULTY AND STUDENT PEERS, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPOSURE TO U.S. ACADEMIC AND CLASSROOM CULTURE. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE AN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE EACH SEMESTER. PARTICIPANTS MAY ONLY BE ABLE TO TAKE ONE OR TWO CLASSES IN THEIR SPECIFIC FIELD OF STUDY PER SEMESTER.

IN ADDITION, TO HELP ENSURE STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR NEW ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENTS, HOST INSTITUTIONS WILL OFFER INSTRUCTION ON TOPICS INCLUDING ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND WRITING, CRITICAL THINKING, TIME MANAGEMENT, NOTE-TAKING, AND STUDYING FOR AND TAKING TESTS (THIS MAY OR MAY NOT BE FOR COURSE CREDIT DEPENDING ON THE HOST INSTITUTION).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- APPLICANTS SHOULD BE STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A THIRD YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM.
- APPLICANTS SHOULD BE IN GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING WITH A COMPLETE VALIDATION OF ALL THE "MODULES" OF THE FIRST AND SECOND YEAR, AND A GENERAL AVERAGE OF 12/20 OR MORE.
- ALL CANDIDATES SHOULD HAVE A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH AND HAVE CERTIFICATION OF ENGLISH ABILITY APPROPRIATE FOR CIRCULATION TO U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR PLACEMENT PURPOSES. THE PREFERRED TOEFL EXAM RESULT WILL BE 500.
- APPLICANTS SHOULD NOT HAVE GRADUATED/COMPLETED THEIR FINAL YEAR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDY BEFORE THEY ARRIVE IN THE U.S.
- APPLICANTS MUST BE 18-25 YEARS OF AGE WHEN THEY ARRIVE TO BEGIN THE PROGRAM.
- APPLICANTS MUST BE A MAURITANIAN CITIZEN.
- NESA UGRAD PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR PROGRAMS AND MAY NOT STAY ON FOR DEGREE STUDY IN THE U.S. TRANSFERS AND EXTENSIONS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

INTERESTED CANDIDATES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FORM TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT, ATTENTION BABALY **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 21, 2013 AT 15:00**. APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. EMBASSY WEBSITE AT mauritania.usembassy.gov. NOTE THAT YOU CANNOT SAVE A COMPLETED COPY OF THIS FORM ON YOUR COMPUTER. SO, PLEASE FILL IT IN AND PRINT A COPY TO SUBMIT TO THE EMBASSY. A COMPLETE APPLICATION WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS.

- APPLICATION FORM
- PERSONAL STATEMENT
- TRANSLATED ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE JOIN THE EDUCATIONAL ADVISING SESSION AT THE US EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT EVERY SUNDAY FROM 15:30 TO 17:00.